

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDAST95090

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Tetradymia stenolepis* Greene

**COMMON NAME:** Mohave horsebrush, Mojave cottonthorn, Mojave horsebrush, Owens Valley cotton thorn, Narrow-scaled Felt-thorn.

**SYNONYMS:**

**FAMILY:** Asteraceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Greene, Bull. Calif. Acad. Sci. 1(3): 92. 1885.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Tehachapi (Tehachepe), Kern Co., California, United States of America.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** Holotype: CAS-1167. M.K. Curran s.n., 1884. Isotype: GH, NY(#273795, M.K. Curran, 1884 (This is a type fragment; origin (herbarium) of material is not noted on this sheet)).

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** Species *stenolepis* is 1 of 10 species in the genus *Tetradymia* in North America, and 1 of 4 in Arizona. The other species of *Tetradymia* found in Arizona include *T. argyrea*, *T. axillaries*, and *T. canescens*.

**DESCRIPTION:** Spinescent shrub up to 120 cm (47.24 in) high. Munz (1974) reports shrub height at 40-80 cm (15.74-31.5 in). This much-branched shrub, is covered with a close-appressed, white wool (Jaeger, 1969). Young stems are unevenly tomentose, becoming glabrous in stripes below the spines. Primary leaves forming coarse, straight, weakly ascending spines, 2-3 cm (0.78-1.18 in) long, tomentose to sericeous; clustered leaves 10-30 mm, oblanceolate, tomentose or silvery-hairy. Heads borne in compact, corymbose clusters of 4-7 at the ends of branches; 0 bracts. Peduncles ebracteate, tomentose, 5-12 mm long; involucre 8-10, narrowly turbinate; phyllaries (4-)5, narrowly ovate, navicular, 8-10 mm long, tomentose. Florets (4-)5 per head; corollas slender, pale yellow (canary-yellow in Jaeger, 1969), tube 5-7 mm long, throat slightly dilated, about 2 mm long, lobes linear, acute, about 3.5 mm long. Anthers slender, about 3 mm long, barely sagittate, apices lanceolate; style branches about 3 mm long, ending in a short, papillate cone. Achenes weakly fusiform, 5-8 mm long, sparsely villous; pappus about 100-150 white or tawny, equal, penicillate bristles 9-12 mm long in 2-3 series. (Strother, 1978, and Hickman, 1993).

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo (<http://www.clunet.edu/wf/des/flowers/fwr-40.htm>, 2002)

Line drawing (Hickman, 1993: p. 357)  
Line drawing (Jaeger, 1969: pl. 737, p. 304)  
Color photo of Isotype fragment (NY-273795, NYBG in <http://207.156.243.8/emu/vh/specimen.php?irn=432533>)  
Color photos (Michelle Cloud-Hughes 2004, in CalPhotos, [http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img\\_query](http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query))  
Color photos (Heath McAllister 2004, in CalPhotos, [http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img\\_query](http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query))  
Color photos (James M. Andre 2005, in CalPhotos, [http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img\\_query](http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query))  
Color photo (in <http://www.calflora.net/bloomingplants/mojavecottonthorn.html>)  
Color photos (in <http://ww1.clunet.edu/wf/des/scientific/des-39.htm>)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Confined to western North America in Arizona, California, and Nevada.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** NW of Cerbat Mountains, and Black Mountains, Mohave County.

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial dicot shrub/subshrub.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers late May to August.

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Desert scrub on mesas and slopes.

**ELEVATION:** In Arizona, the elevation ranges from 3,300 – 4,000 ft (1007-1220 m). For its range, *T. stenolepis* is found between 1,969 and 4,921 ft (601-1501 m).

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:** In Nevada, found in granite soils or broken granite to sand.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Mojave Desert, in creosotebush scrub and Joshua-tree woodland. In Arizona, associated with *Coleogyne ramosissima* (blackbush), *Larrea tridentata* (creosotebush), and *Yucca schidigera* (Mojave yucca). (SEINET, accessed 2005). In Nevada, associated with *Acamptopappus* (goldenhead), *Krameria* (ratany), *Larrea*, and *Yucca*. In California, associated with *Amsonia* (slimpod), *Atriplex canescens* (four-wing saltbush), *Ephedra* (Mormon-tea), *Gutierrezia* (snakeweed), *Yucca brevifolia* (Joshua tree), and *Y. schidigera*.

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown.

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None  
**STATE STATUS:** None  
**OTHER STATUS:** None (USDI, BLM AZ 2005)  
[Bureau of Land Management Sensitive (USDI, BLM 2000)]

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BLM – Kingman Field Office; Private.

### **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **REFERENCES:**

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#### MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Genus *Tetradymia* from the Greek **tetra**, “four,” and **dymos**, “together,” from the four-flowered heads of the first known species of this genus. Species *stenolepis* refers to narrow-scaled.

**Revised:** 2002-05-16 (SMS)  
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